

Notes from the President

Circumstances came about that we had our June meeting on the steps of Kenilworth, rather than inside. Despite the inconvenience, I think it was still bearable, maybe even a bit enjoyable, minus the cement seats.

CAO Ben Harris – Officer Harris briefed the Steering Committee (SC) on criminal activity over the last three months and brought to our attention an important meeting on Thursday, June 23rd. It was in regards to the pending closure of a local night sleep shelter for the homeless. As a result of a recent court ruling, the facility's closure will prevent law enforcement from arresting those found sleeping in public "no sleep" locations such as parks and alleys. More information will be provided next month on that meeting.

FAA...the fight continues – As I mentioned last month, mediation has come to a close which sends the case back to the courts. We are reservedly encouraged by what we heard from the mediation even without an agreement coming from it. We hope that continues, eventually returning our wonderful neighborhoods back to quieter times. The SC approved an additional payment to the law firm handling the case and, as of now, no oral arguments are scheduled. This brings us very close to meeting our current financial obligation, however, your financial support is still very much needed and appreciated. The donation link can be found at FQStory.org or you can contact the SC. Thank you, again.

Mosquitoes in Storm Drains – We were alerted about mosquitoes breeding in storm drains on 13th Ave & Willetta. The city was contacted and a work order has been added to see what can be done. The county also is looking into the matter. Since the drains aren't really drains, rather sumps, water collection is more prevalent and the likely cause of the infestation. If you notice more locations, please notify an SC member.

Liberty Iron & Metals – As you may recall, Liberty Metals had an industrial accident due to a chlorine gas cylinder exploding while being crushed. Measures in place to ensure this type of accident does not occur, did not happen for whatever reason. This recent event has become contentious between Villa Verde residents and Liberty. We hope effective dialogue can be reached between the two side so a working relationship can exist.

11th Ave Bridge Project – The SC is again looking into the 11th Ave bridge as this year's beautification project. Information gathering is going on right now with surveys coming in the near future. If you have ideas or referrals for artists to be considered, contact the project lead Jason Martinez (jasonizm1010@gmail.com). We'd love to see something awesome be done for all to enjoy.

7th Ave/Portland St Tree Replacement – A second tree has been knocked down by a vehicle leaving 7th Ave and coming in contact with the tree. Discussions with the City of Phoenix, contracted to maintain the easement owned by ADOT, have revealed there is no money to replace the trees. The SC was asked if it would consider paying for the replacement of the two trees (approx. \$800). Our VP, Steven Methvin, will gather information on a comprehensive proposal to refurbish the entire easement and look into presenting a request to Councilwoman Pastor's office for the refurbishment.

Being Neighborly – I was approached by a neighbor on the subject of alley trash containers. This recurring subject is most likely as old as our neighborhood. Between the residents, alley-travelers and contractors, our alleys get quite a bit of traffic. As the smells can be quite overpowering to those enjoying their yards in the immediate area, please help in limiting odors by closing the lids if you find them open. It may seem a futile effort but sometimes little efforts reap big rewards. Every little bit helps. And remember to report any illegal dumpers.

As always, feel free to contact me if there's anything I can help with.
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